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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

12 MAR 1993

92-266

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Honorable J. James Exon
United States Senator
Room 275, Federal Building
North Platte, NE 69101

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RECEIVED

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Senator Exon:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of DeEtta Hartman of Cozad, Nebraska. Your constituent complains about rate increases by her local cable television operator.

The Commission has a clear understanding that Congress adopted the Cable Act of 1992 to constrain unreasonable cable rates. The Commission is in the process of formulating rules implementing the rate provisions of the law and is seeking public comment on those provisions that address rate rollbacks, refunds, and evasions of statutory requirements. The Commission will attempt to implement these provisions faithfully, and will consider the conduct of the cable industry during the interim period in deciding what kind of regulation is needed.

Your constituent's letter will be placed in the record of this proceeding so that the Commission can be mindful of her concerns during its deliberations. I trust that the foregoing and the enclosures are informative.

Sincerely,

Roy J. Stewart

Roy J. Stewart
Chief, Mass Media Bureau

Enclosures

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04

Congressional

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/25/93

LETTER REPORT

| CONTROL NO. | DATE RECEIVED | DATE OF CORRESP | DATE DUE | DATE DUE OLA(857) |
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| 9300837 | 02/25/93 | 02/17/93 | 03/17/93 | |

| TITLE | MEMBERS NAME | REPLY FOR SIG OF |
|---------|--------------|------------------|
| Senator | J James Exon | BC |

| CONSTITUENT'S NAME | SUBJECT |
|--------------------|---|
| DeEtta Hartman | inq. re: rate regulation & 92 Cable Act |

| REF TO | REF TO | REF TO | REF TO |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|
| MMB | Ehf | C+I | mmB |
| DATE | DATE | DATE | DATE |
| 02/25/93 | 2-25-93 | 2-25 | |

J. JAMES EXON
NEBRASKA

528 SENATE HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

287 FEDERAL BUILDING
LINCOLN, NE 68508

1823 FARNAM STREET
OMAHA, NE 68102

275 FEDERAL BUILDING
NORTH PLATTE, NE 69101

2106 FIRST AVENUE
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE 69361

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2702

February 17, 1993

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET

Handwritten:
MMP
CA-TV-Notes
837

Federal Communications Commission
Congressional Liaison
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a letter from:

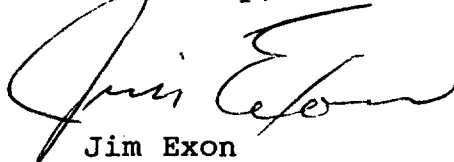
DeEtta Hartman
318 E. 19th Street
Cozad, NE 69130

whose problem appears to fall within your jurisdiction.

I would appreciate any information which will enable me to respond to my constituent's inquiry. Please return the enclosed correspondence with your report to:

Senator J. James Exon
Room 275, Federal Building
North Platte, NE 69101

Cordially,



Jim Exon
United States Senator

Enclosure

93 FEB -2 PM 5: 24

January 28, 1993

Mr. Jay Hokanson
Senior Engineer
Federal Communications Commission
P. O. Box 1588
Grand Island, NE 68802

Dear Mr. Hokanson:

I was pleased to see that the federal government passed a law regulating Cable TV companies. It has been apparent for some time that these firms thought that no one could or should question their rate increases. After reading in the paper that the Federal Communications Commission wanted to know of cable companies who raise their rates prior to the new law taking affect on April 2, I decided to write this letter.

In Cozad, Nebraska, we are served by Cable USA whose corporate office is in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The rates that Cozad residents pay have increased almost every six months. The last rate increase came October 1, 1992 and now another will go into effect March 1, 1993. The March increase indicates to me that Cable USA wanted to definitely implement a raise before the April 2 deadline for the new law. No reason was given for the price hike.

The price rate increase was 20 to 25% on expanded service and premium movie channels (schedule attached). The Cozad City Council cannot do anything about these raises, other than to listen when Cable USA comes before them to advise of another rate increase.

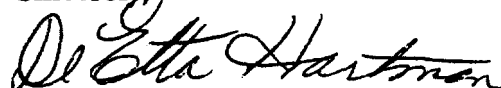
Not only is the company reluctant to answer questions about these price increases, but does very little to upgrade or keep the system repaired. Cable USA is not listed in the local telephone directory with a number or address, but only in a regional directory that most people do not use. It is obvious the company does not want service calls and tries hard not to have people come into their office (newspaper article attached).

In a rural community such as ours, the citizens deserve better, particularly when there is no competition for the cable company. Cozad is already paying higher rates than many other communities. I'm hopeful the Federal Communications Commission will investigate Cable USA to determine if these high price cable rates are warranted.

Mr. Jay Hokanson
January 28, 1993
Page 2

Thank you for any attention the Federal Communications Commission could give to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeEtta Hartman".

DeEtta Hartman
318 East 19th Street
Cozad, NE 69130
(308) 784-3809 home
(308) 784-3902 work

Enclosures

cc: City of Cozad
Claude Berreckman Jr.
Congressman Bill Barrett
✓ Senator James Exon
Senator Bob Kerrey

Cable USA raised the rates in October, 1992 and again in March, 1993

Cozad, Nebraska

| October-1992 Existing Rates w/Tax | | New Rate | Effective 3/1/93 Increase |
|---|---------|----------|------------------------------|
| Basic | \$20.31 | \$20.31 | \$.00 |
| Expanded Service | 2.49 | 2.97 | .48 |
| HBO | 12.83 | 13.14 | .31 |
| Disney | 8.38 | 8.69 | .31 |
| Cinemax | 10.50 | 10.81 | .31 |
| Showtime | 8.38 | 8.69 | .31 |
| Additional Outlet | 2.66 | 2.66 | .00 |
| Remote #1 | 3.18 | 3.18 | .00 |
| Remote #2 | .54 | .54 | .00 |
| CV for AO | 2.66 | 2.66 | .00 |

Trib 1-28-93

Landfill news called "good:"

Some cable TV in Cozad set to go up March 1

by Steve Moseley
TRIB Staff Writer

Rates for expanded cable service in Cozad will advance 20 percent effective Mar. 1, 1993. Also taking a jump will be premium movie channels HBO, Disney, Cinemax and Showtime charges for basic cable

Considerable discussion also centered on difficulties contacting Cable USA because their phone numbers are not published in US West telephone directories. They do appear, said Olin Tuesday morning, in Frontier Directories.

"I get a lot of calls from people